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Foreign Trade**

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA TO SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, October 9th, 2023 – His Excellency High Commissioner Shankar Balachandran, High Commissioner of India to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, made an official visit to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines from September 30th, 2023 to October 6th 2023.

On Monday, 2nd October 2023, His Excellency Mr. Shankar Balachandran met with the Honourable Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves; Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Honourable Saboto Caesar; Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour. The Indian High Commissioner also met with the Honourable Keisal Peters; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, to discuss the continual solidarity between states and the deepening of diplomatic relations.

As a part of an agreement titled The Indian Grant Assistance made between the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Government of India on September 13th, 2019, His Excellency attended the completion ceremony for four Quick Impact Projects at Glenside Village, Marriaqua. The Quick Impact Projects comprise a total of four projects, each valued at US \$50,000.00 or approximately EC\$ 135,000.00, all of which were funded under the agreement, with a maximum total of US\$200,000. In Glenside Village, Marriaqua, the focus was on community development through sports and recreation. Facilities for recreational sports, seating for spectators, a meeting room, changing rooms, and washroom facilities were integrated into this project. It not only supports community activities but also aligns with the Government's Sport Against Crime programme.

The other three projects include the repair and restoration of the Bequia Market in Port Elizabeth, the rehabilitation and transformation of the Derelict Agriculture Depot in Chateaubelair and the refurbishment of the Old Calder Community Centre.

The Governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and India established diplomatic ties on August 16th, 1990 and have enjoyed a cordial relationship over the years.

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For further information, please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade at telephone number 784-456-2060.